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A MOTION approving the business case of the King County
Health Reform Initiative.

..body

WHEREAS, national health care costs in this country are skyrocketing,
approaching a national crisis, and

WHEREAS, King County, like other employers in the region, state, and nation, is
facing an urgent need to be able to provide affordable, available quality health care to
employees while effectively containing the rise in employee health care costs, and

WHEREAS, King County the employee benefits budget is expected to increase
11 percent or more per year for at least the next five years, and

WHEREAS, the Budget Advisory Task Force recommended addressing the
spiraling cost of health care, and

WHEREAS, to address this critical issue, an internal county team conducted a
focused and comprehensive research effort to seek best practice approaches from
research institutes as well as actual applications, and

WHEREAS, in November, 2003, the King County council approved a four-year
benefits labor-management collaboration project in the 2004 Budget to develop an
education strategy that drives home to employees the very real and personal effect the
health care crisis has on their benefits and provides them resources and tools to obtain
high quality health care at a price affordable to both the employees and the county, and

WHEREAS, in December of 2003, King County Executive Ron Sims created the Health Care Advisory Task (HAT) Force, and

WHEREAS, the council adopted the initial findings report of the Health Advisory Task Force by Motion 11890 in which the HAT Force recommended, among other things, that the county focus on reducing the “demand side” of health care by moving employees and family members with higher risks to lower risk, keeping those with lower risk healthy, and teaching consumers how to make more effective health care choices by conducting employee surveys and focus groups to determine the most relevant and effective communication programs for employees and their families, conducting an analysis of its health care utilization data to determine areas of intervention that will have the greatest effect on health care costs, and creating benefit designs that motivate employees and their families to choose identified quality providers, actively participate with their providers in their own health care, participate in wellness and prevention activities, and manage chronic health conditions, and

WHEREAS, the Joint Labor Management Committee has approved a new benefit package for 2007-2009 called *Health Incentives* that incorporates the recommendations of the Health Advisory Task Force and industry best practices, and incorporates disease management, case management, health promotion, and other programs aimed at reducing the rate health care cost increases by helping county employees and their families get healthy and stay that way, and

WHEREAS, the 2005 adopted budget included a proviso requiring the executive to submit to the council for its review and approval by motion a business case for the

disease management, case management, health promotion and other programs that are a part of the King County Health Reform Initiative, and

WHEREAS, the county executive has approved the business case of the King County Health Reform Initiative and has presented the report to the council in conformance with the proviso;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

The business case of the King County Health Reform Initiative, included as Attachment A, is hereby approved.

Attachments: A. King County Health Reform Initiative Business Case